

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Harriet Semmes Alexander upon her receipt of the Tennessee Library Association's 1995 Frances Neel Cheney Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those dedicated professionals who work assiduously to maintain and improve our libraries; and

WHEREAS, libraries are vital to a democratic society, because libraries ensure that all citizens have equal access to works on science, history, mathematics and literature, the very blueprints of our society; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Library Association has recently awarded its highest honor to Harriet Semmes Alexander, a reference librarian and assistant professor at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Alexander has been named the 1995 recipient of the TLA's Frances Neel Cheney Award, an honor most befitting this consummate professional and her distinguished career in service of the written word; and

WHEREAS, this annual award recognizes persons who have contributed significantly to the world of books and librarianship via writing, teaching or other ways to promote books and reading; Ms. Alexander was specifically recognized for her exemplary work with bibliographies; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Alexander has published two major reference works dealing with literary criticism: American and British Poetry: A Guide to Criticism, 1925 to 1978 and English

Language Criticism on the Foreign Novels, 1965-1975, published in 1984 and 1989, respectively; and

WHEREAS, both of these expertly researched volumes have been praised as comprehensive reference works of great benefit to college undergraduate and graduate students; and

WHEREAS, the author is presently working on a supplement to her first book, to cover the period 1979 to 1990; its expected publication date is December 1995; and

WHEREAS, a native of Blytheville, Arkansas, Ms. Alexander earned her bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University; she also holds a master's degree in European History from the University of Memphis and a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, she has published reference works on the literary careers of Toni Morrison and James Agee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Alexander has been associated with the University of Memphis as a reference librarian since 1977; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding librarian should be appropriately recognized for her numerous contributions to the important areas of librarianship and publications; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby congratulate and honor Harriet Semmes Alexander upon her much deserved receipt of the Tennessee Library Association's 1995 Frances Neel Cheney Award and salute her commitment to leading the examined life with liberality and courage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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